

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5302

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR PARM EG NL ME UN

SUBJ: MALIK'S VIEWS ON LATEST MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS

REF: USUN 5280

1. DURING DINNER AT FRG AMBASSADOR'S, NOVEMBER 30, AMBASSADOR MALIK APPROACHED ME TO COMMENT ON OUR RESPECTIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM THAT AFTERNOON WHEN SYG HANDED US INFORMAL TEXT OF SIX POINT EGYPTIAN DEMARCHE (USUN 5280). IN LOW-KEY MANNER, MALIK SAID MIDDLE EAST SITUATION LOOKED SERIOUS AND WE HAD RECEIVED BAD NEWS FROM SYG. HE DID NOT MENTION ISRAELIS BY NAME NOR ATTEMPT TO LOAD BLAME ON THEM FOR BREAK OFF OF CONVERSATIONS AT KILOMETER 101. I REPLIED THAT NEWS WAS DISHEARTENING BUT THAT WE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO EXPECT UPS AND DOWNS IN THE SITUATION AND THAT IT SEEMED TO ME IMPORTANT THING WAS TO CONTINUE TO BRING INFLUENCE ON BOTH SIDES TO KEEP TALKING. MALIK DID NOT DISAGREE.

2. INDICATING THAT HE FOUND REFERENCE OFFENSIVE, MALIK NOTED IN TONE OF RESIGNED DISGRUNTLEMENT THAT "THOSE EGYPTIANS" HAD REFERRED IN THEIR DEMARCHE TO US AND USSR AS SUPER POWERS.

3. IN GENERAL CONVERSATION AFTER DINNER WITH GROUP,
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MALIK MAINTAINED HIS LOW KEY RESTRAINED MANNER. HE SAID

NOTHING SPECIFIC OR CONTENTIOUS ON MIDDLE EAST, JOINED IN SOME BANTER ON THE OIL SITUATION, AND AT ONE POINT EXPRESSED SOME PERPLEXITY OVER WHY ARABS HAD SINGLED OUT NETHERLANDS FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT. IN REJOINDER TO VISITING CDU MEMBER OF GERMAN PARLIAMENT WHOSE BEHAVIOR IMPRESSED ME AS BORDERING ON ARROGANT, MALIK DECLARED THAT USSR AND US WERE WORKING TOGETHER FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ELSEWHERE AND IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT MANY, INCLUDING SOME IN WEST, DID NOT SEEM TO LIKE THAT.

4. HE SOUGHT GOOD HUMOREDLY TO GET IN A FEW LICKS FOR ROB, MAINLY AT EXPENSE OF BRITISH AND GERMAN AMBASSADORS, AND SAID WITH A CHUCKLE THAT US SILENT ON THIS ISSUE.

5. FOOTNOTE: AFTER HIS BELIGERENT CAMPAIGN ON SOVIET MEMBERS FOR UNTSO OBSERVER CONTINGENT, MALIK HAS ENTIRELY SUBSIDED AND HAS NOT ONCE MENTIONED MATTER SINCE SECRETARY'S CONVERSATION WITH WALDHEIM NOVEMBER 23.
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